

1876. BELL COUNTY, TEXAS. 1877.

A General Invitation to worthy people.

Bell County is situated on the 31st parallel of north latitude, in the central part of the state. The eastern half of the county is a beautiful rolling prairie of black loam, free from sand. The western half is broken hill and valley, following each other in rapid succession, with beautiful, rich prairie lands occasionally intervening. The hills are covered with post-oak, black-jack, pin-oak, live-oak, pecan, sumac, haw, plum, and often great quantities of nutting and Fall grapes. The county is traversed from east to west by three bold, rapid and rapid-running streams, viz: the Lampasas, Leon, and Salado, which unite ten miles above the eastern boundary of the county, and form Little River which runs into the Brazos opposite Hearn, on the International and Great Northern Railroad. The Lampasas and Salado are fed by Knob Reppers, Friars, Stampede-Stallion, Noland, Cowhorse, Owl, and Trimmer, all beautiful creeks of pure water, running over rocky beds, and made up of the innumerable springs with which the western half of the county abounds. The strips of timber along the streams are from a quarter to a half mile wide, and consists of bur-oak, overcup-oak, ash, walnut, pin-oak and Spanish-oak, elm and pecan, sycamore and cotton-wood with box elder, hackberry etc. Along and between the above mentioned streams large quantities of fine limestone rock is contained in great quantities for building purposes. The county contains about nine hundred square miles with a population of about 18000 souls, and nearly 4000 voters; out of which there is less than one thousand blacks. The population both white and black is as orderly, moral and law abiding as any like number in any part of the United States. The towns of the county are Belton, (the county seat) Sahado, Mountain Home, Sunshine, Youngs Port, Howard, Harrisville, McMillan, Moffett and Aiken, Belton is a thriving well built county seat, of about 1800 inhabitants, stone courthouse and jail. Twenty general stores, in addition to drug stores, jewelers shops retail liquor houses

blacksmith shops, good shops, two hotels, two livery stables, barber shop, etc. About ten doctors and twenty lawyers, Methodist, Baptist, and Catholic church houses, and three very well attended schools.

Salado the next largest town contains about 1500 inhabitants, and is one of the best built small towns in the State; it was laid out in 1860 by Salado College joint stock company, for educational purposes, and Salado College incorporated the same year, for all denominations, and never to be controlled by any religious set or denomination of christians to the exclusion of any other set or denomination of christians, but the Bible is required to be taught, its solemn truths, so far as this can be done to avoid denominationalism. The sale of spirituous wines or other intoxicating liquors is prohibited by act of the Legislature within six miles of the College.

There are four organized churches, viz., Methodist, Baptist, Cumberland Presbyterian and Christian, all holding divine services in the College Chapel in rotation, with an union Sabbath School. The College building is one hundred by forty-five feet, two stories high, built of stone. The annual attendance of students has ranged since 1860 from one hundred and fifty to two hundred and eighty. The surrounding country is rapidly settling up with a good population elevated to education, integrity and morality. Salado is situated at the base of the mountain range, nine miles from Belton, fifty miles from Waco, fifty miles from Austin, and about twenty-two and a half miles from Taylor on the International & Great Northern Railroad. Has six flouring mills with gins attached within seven miles of the town, all propelled by the beautiful waters of the Salado creek, with powers ranging from ten to twenty-six feet. Some of the boldest and most beautiful springs of the State are within 200 yards of the College. The natural scenery around is bold, picturesque and attractive, with a sure guarantee for health at all seasons of the year. The road to Taylor

is an uninterrupted body of rich prairie land, crossed by the two Darrs and Willies creeks and the San Gabriel river. These lands are offered at from two and a half to five dollars per acre, one third cash, and balance on long time. A daily line of stages run from Belton to Austin via Salado.

The productions of the county are corn, wheat, rye, barley, oats, millet, hungarian grass, cotton, potatoes, (sweet and Irish) cabbage, beans, peas, turnips, mustard, lettuce, beets, carrots, radishes, tomatoes, water melons, musk melons, squashes, pumpkins, kershaws, and in a word all the vegetables usually grown in the South. Peaches, pears and plums have all been successfully raised, with several varieties of foreign grapes. Apples so far as tried have given satisfaction.

The average production of the county for a period of ten years may be safely set down as follows: Corn 35 bushels, wheat 10 bushels, oats, 40 bushels, rye, 30 bushels, barley 40 bushels, cotton half a bale per acre. Corn this year will be worth two bits per bushel. Pork from five to six cents. Beef from 3-12 to 4 cents per pound, milk cows were from \$15 to \$20. Mules from \$75 to \$100, Horses from \$30 to \$75. Lands rent for one-fourth of the cotton, and one third of the corn, wheat, rye, barley and oats. Farm hands are worth from twelve and a half to twenty dollars per month and board. House hands from six to twelve dollars per month. Mechanics get from one dollar and a half to two dollars and a half per day. There is a very large amount of land for rent in the county every year, and working immigrants always meet with a cordial reception and are sure of employment either on the farm or in the workshop. With lands easy of access either by purchase, lease or rent of the best productive qualities, pure atmosphere with as healthy invigorating qualities as the mountains of Virginia or Tennessee, where the white man can work every day in the year free from the extremes of heat or cold, adapted alike to agriculture in all its various branches, as well as

stock raising on the more extended scale either of horses, mules, cows, sheep or hogs, with schools and churches in every neighborhood, and above all a law abiding and moral population. No county in the State can offer greater inducements to the industrious and moral immigrant who comes with the intention of building up a new county than the county of Bell.

TO REACH BELL COUNTY.

The best route for the Immigrant from any point north, east, or west, is to take the Iron Mountain Railroad from St. Louis, Cerio, Columbus Ky., or Little Rock, via Memphis, through to Longview Texas, where the International & Great Northern Railroad will bring them to Taylor, Station in Williamson county, (see map on reverse hereto.)

The following gentlemen citizens of Bell county will cheerfully reply to any letters of enquiry, and invite correspondence from all parties who have a desire of settling in Texas.

L. A. Griffith, Sahado,
Capt. J. F. Fuller, "
Col. N. L. Norton, "
Col. E. S. C. Robertson "
Geo. W. Tyler, Belton,
E. N. Guel, Mountain Home,
Hon. D. D. Buchanan, Moffett,
Dr. Russell, Harrisville,
Dr. J. J. Gregory, McMillan,
J. H. Davenport, Belton,
X. B. Sanders, "
Jas. Boyd, "
W. S. Holman, "
R. P. Eglon, "
Robert Childress, Onacville,
L. Williams, "
Sils Baggett, Howard,
Geo. Pendleton, "
R. H. Baird, Moffett,
Jas. A. Weddell, "
P. F. Chandler, Crossville,
Jas. M. Cross, "